

Spate of armed robbery rises in Uyo

UYO—THE rate of armed robbery has increased in Uyo and other parts of Akwa Ibom in recent times.

This latest upsurge in robbery cases is coming against recent Police claims that Uyo was the most peaceful capital in Nigeria.

Uyo, which enjoyed a low crime rate in 2006, has witnessed many robbery cases since the beginning of the year.

Thefts of GSM handsets had been most prevalent especially around the University of Uyo area while house breaking during the

night had also increased.

Residents now live in perpetual fear.

Banks had not been spared with three commercial banks raided in the last five weeks.

Six persons were killed in the bank raids while several millions of naira were carted away.

Over the weekend, armed robbers invaded a commercial bank along Ikot Ekpene road killing three persons and making away with several millions of naira.

Glasses of nearby buildings were also destroyed by bullet shots while three commer-

cial motorcyclists operating late were dispossessed of their vehicles.

Though the state Police command paraded 24 armed robbery suspects on Thursday to showcase the success of recent measures to rid the town of armed robbers, the fear among residents is still palpable.

Residents have argued that most of the raids originated from outside the state and suggested that Police in the state should collaborate with those of neighbouring states to check the menace.